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INFO RUCNARF/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 000538

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EAPS/MLS FOR AARON COPE AND IO/UNP FOR PAUL WICKBERG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/13/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [FR](#) [BR](#)  
SUBJECT: BURMA REFERENDUM: FRANCE SEEKS P-3 UNITY BEFORE  
DEMARCHING ASEAN

REF: 08 STATE 26677

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew Young for reasons 1.4(B) and  
(D)

Poloff delivered reftel demarche to MFA Burma desk officer  
Jeremie Petite on March 14 outlining our view that Burma's  
proposed May referendum will not adhere to internationally  
accepted standards for free and fair elections. Petite  
agreed with U.S. concerns, but said France does not want to  
reject the referendum outright in deference to lack of ASEAN  
unity. Noting that France believes ASEAN is critical to  
successful pressure on Burma, Petite said the French proposed  
as an initial step to consult with UK counterparts on March  
27 and follow with P-3 talks to achieve a unified position on  
how best to enlist ASEAN in next steps with Burma.

Please visit Paris' Classified Website at:  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm>

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